

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/801,536

Examiner

Louis K. Huynh

Applicant(s)

PRAKKEN, NICOLAAS MARTIN

Art Unit

3721

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed 03/03/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 17 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 3/17/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Robert Patch (Reg. No. 17,355) on April 12, 2005.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification:

The title has been changed to: --Assembly for Collecting Together Different Goods--;

On page 1, line 2: --BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION-- has been inserted;

On page 2, above line 1: --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION-- has been
inserted;

On page 4, between lines 9 & 10: --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE
DRAWINGS-- has been inserted;

On page 4, between lines 18 & 19: --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE
DRAWINGS-- has been inserted.

Claims 1-5 have been replaced with:

1. (Currently Amended) Assembly for collecting different goods comprising:
at least two feed conveyors for said goods;
collection conveyor extending at an angle to said feed conveyors, one end of said
collection conveyor is arranged below said feed conveyors close to a discharge

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end thereof to receive said goods therefrom and the other end of said collection conveyor is constructed to collect together said goods to form a pack;
said feed conveyors comprising containers for accommodating said goods and discharge means for discharging said goods on to said collection conveyor;
said collection conveyor having, close to said one end of said collection conveyor, at least two separate transport lines arranged in parallel next to one another with a common drive for said goods; and
means for moving said goods towards one another in a direction essentially transverse to a direction of transport ~~are~~ of said goods arranged close to said other end of said collection conveyor;
wherein said at least two separate transport lines stop immediately upstream of said
means for moving said goods towards one another.

2. (Original) Assembly according to claim 1, wherein said feed conveyors are provided a buffer at the discharge end thereof.
3. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to claim 1, wherein said containers are open on least one side and said discharge means comprise ejection means for sliding said goods out of said containers.
4. (Currently Amended) Assembly according to claim 1, wherein a direction of transport of said goods at said discharge end on the feed conveyor is essentially perpendicular with respect to the direction of transport of said goods at said one end of said collection conveyor.

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5. (Currently Amended) Assembly according claim 1, wherein said common drive comprises a plurality of bars mounted on said collection conveyor and located equidistance apart, wherein a space for accommodating goods delimited between every two bars.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to disclose and/or teach an assembly for collecting different goods that comprises in combination: a collection conveyor, at least two feed conveyors arranged above the collection conveyor and having containers for accommodating the goods and discharge means for discharging the goods onto the collection conveyor, wherein the collection conveyor comprises a common drive for the goods, at least two separating transport lines arranged in parallel next to one another at one end of the collection conveyor, and means for moving the goods towards one another in a direction essentially transverse to a direction of transport of the goods arranged at the other end of the collection conveyor, wherein the at least two separating transport lines stop immediately upstream of the means for moving the goods.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

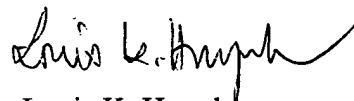
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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Louis K. Huynh whose telephone number is (571) 272-4462.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9:30AM to 5:00PM.

7. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi I. Rada can be reached on (571) 272-4467. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Louis K. Huynh
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Art Unit 3721

April 12, 2005